

Appl 10/751,231  
Amdt dated November 15, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2006

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 - 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A resilient universal single piece hand guard for protecting the hand of the user of a hacksaw having a handle, a frame and a blade, said hand guard comprising:

a flexible flat generally rectangular shield formed of a single piece of resilient material having a height generally equal to that of the frame or handle and having a width at least as great as a projected frontal width of a user's hand when grasped around the handle during hacksaw use;

said shield having an elongated notch extending downwardly through a central portion of said shield from an upper margin thereof, said notch having a width and length sufficient to be fitted around and receive support from an upper portion of the rear of the frame at a point in proximity to and forward of the handle;

said shield also having a mounting aperture positioned directly below said notch and spaced above a lower margin of said shield and being sized to fit over and receive support from a threaded end of an elongated rear blade tensioning support held within a lower corner of the frame;

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said shield extending vertically along the upright central portion thereof against a rear upright portion of the frame which extends between said notch and said mounting aperture;  
said shield being held in operative position with respect to the frame only by the resilient fit of said notch around the frame and a threaded nut engaged over with the threaded end of the rear blade tensioning member against a portion of said shield surrounding said mounting aperture;  
said shield having sufficient resiliency for a portion thereof to be protectively deflected around a corresponding portion of the hand upon impact against an object during use of the hacksaw.

Claim 16 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 15, wherein:

said resilient material is sheet elastomer.

Claim 17 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

said elastomer is neoprene.

Claim 18 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

said resilient material has a thickness in the range of about 1/8".

Claim 19 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 18, wherein:

said shield has a width and a height of about 5".

Claim 20 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 16, wherein:

said shield is generally rectangular and has a thickness of about 1/8" and a width and a height of about 5".

Claim 21 (new): A universal hand guard as set forth in Claim 17, wherein:

said neoprene has a durometer reading of in the range of about 60.